

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparation of a porous gelatin material in the form of spheres with a continuous pore structure, the method comprising the steps of:

- preparing a homogeneous water-based gelatin solution;
- adding an emulsifier with an HLB value >9 ;
- adding a first composition comprising an organic solvent and an emulsifier with an HLB value >9 ;
- adding a second composition comprising an organic solvent and an emulsifier with an HLB value <8 ; and
- allowing the gelatin material to solidify.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A method for preparation of a cast, three-dimensional, porous gelatin structure ~~which can be obtained by~~ comprising the steps:

- preparing a homogenous water-based gelatin solution;
- adding an emulsifier with an HLB value >9 ;
- adding a first composition comprising an organic solvent and an emulsifier with an HLB value >9 ; and
- casting the gelatin solution in a mould.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, further comprising the step of chemically crosslinking the gelatin material.

Claim 4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the chemical crosslinking is carried out with poly- or bifunctional isocyanate compounds, such as hexamethylenediisocyanate or toluenediisocyanate, poly- or bifunctional aldehydes, such as glutardialdehyde, or with formaldehyde.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ claim 1, wherein the emulsifier with an HLB value >9 is selected from the group consisting of Tween 80, Tween 40, Myrj 52, and Brij 58.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 or 3-5~~ claim 1, wherein the emulsifier with an HLB value <8 is selected from the group consisting of Span 85, Span 65, and Atmos 300.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of cyclohexane, toluene, paraffin oil, and industrial benzene.

Claim 8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the organic solvent is cyclohexane.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A porous gelatin material in the form of spheres with a continuous pore structure ~~produced~~ obtainable by preparing a homogeneous water-based gelatin solution;

adding an emulsifier with an HLB value >9;

adding a first composition comprising an organic solvent and an emulsifier with an HLB value >9;

adding a second composition comprising an organic solvent and an emulsifier with an HLB value <8; and

allowing the gelatin material to solidify.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A cast, three-dimensional, porous gelatin structure ~~which can be obtained~~ obtainable by:

preparing a homogenous water-based gelatin solution;

adding an emulsifier with an HLB value >9;

adding a first composition comprising an organic solvent and an emulsifier with an HLB value >9; and

casting the gelatin solution in a mould.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a porous gelatin material or a cast, three-dimensional, porous gelatin structure, produced as claimed in any one of claims 1-8, as~~ A carrier for cells comprising a porous gelatin material or a cast three-dimensional porous gelatin structure produced in accordance with the method of claim 1.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) ~~Use as claimed in claim 11, wherein the biocompatible, porous material or the cast, three-dimensional, porous gelatin structure is used for~~ A culture of artificial skin, artificial organs, or fatty tissue and blood vessels comprising the biocompatible porous material or a cast three-dimensional porous gelatin structure produced in accordance with the process of claim 1.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a porous gelatin material or a cast, porous, three-dimensional gelatin structure produced as claimed in any one of claims 1-8 for making an~~ An implant comprising a porous gelatin material or a cast three-dimensional porous gelatin structure produced in accordance with the method of claim 1.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 2-8~~ claim 10, wherein the cast three-dimensional gelatin structure is selected among tubes, ears and in-vivo-like structures.

Claim 15. (Cancelled).

Claim 16. (New) A method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of chemically crosslinking the gelatin material.

Claim 17. (New) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the cast three-dimensional gelatin structure is selected among tubes, ears, and in-vivo-like structures.

Claim 18. (New) A gelatin material according to claim 9, wherein the gelatin has been chemically crosslinked.

Claim 19. (New) A gelatin structure according to claim 10, wherein the gelatin has been chemically crosslinked.

Claim 20. (New) A method for implanting in an individual a porous gelatin material as claimed in claim 9 as carrier for cells for the production of biological substances, comprising introducing such cells onto said material, implanting said porous gelatin material in the individual and allowing the cells on said material to produce said substances.

Claim 21. (New) A method for implanting in an individual a porous gelatin material as claimed in claim 18 as carrier for cells for the production of biological substances, comprising introducing such cells onto said material, implanting said porous gelatin material in the individual and allowing the cells on said material to produce said substances.

Claim 22. (New) A method for implanting in an individual a cast, three dimensional, porous gelatin structure as claimed in claim 10 as carrier for cells for the production of biological substances, comprising introducing such cells onto said structure, implanting said cast, three-dimensional, porous gelatin structure in the individual and allowing the cells on said structure to produce said substances.

Claim 23. (New) A method for implanting in an individual a cast, three dimensional, porous gelatin structure as claimed in claim 19 as carrier for cells for the production of biological substances, comprising introducing such cells onto structure, implanting said cast, three-dimensional, porous gelatin structure in the individual and allowing the cells on said structure to produce said substances.

Claim 24. (New) A method for implanting in an individual a porous gelatin material as claimed in claim 9, comprising implanting such material at a site in need of treatment, and allowing the surrounding cells to migrate to said site and colonize thereat, such as for smoothing out wrinkles.

Claim 25. (New) A method for implanting in an individual a cast, three-dimensional, porous gelatin structure as claimed in claim 18, comprising implanting such material at a site in need of treatment, and allowing the surrounding cells to migrate to said site and colonize thereat, such as for smoothing out wrinkles.

Claim 26. (New) A method for implanting in an individual a cast, three-dimensional, porous gelatin structure as claimed in claim 10, comprising implanting such structure at a site in need of treatment, and allowing the surrounding cells to migrate to said site and colonize thereat, such as for smoothing out wrinkles.

Claim 27. (New) A method for implanting in an individual a cast, three-dimensional, porous gelatin structure as claimed in claim 19, comprising implanting such structure at a site in need of treatment, and allowing the surrounding cells to migrate to said site and colonize thereat, such as for smoothing out wrinkles.

Claim 28. (New) A method for improving in vivo healing of damaged tissue, comprising introducing appropriate cells onto a porous gelatin material as claimed in claim 9, and implanting said material or cast at a site of damaged tissue.

Claim 29. (New) A method for improving in vivo healing of damaged tissue, comprising introducing appropriate cells onto a porous gelatin material as claimed in claim 18, and implanting said material or cast at a site of damaged tissue.

Claim 30. (New) A method for improving in vivo healing of damaged tissue, comprising introducing appropriate cells onto a cast, three-dimensional, porous gelatin structure as claimed in claim 10 and implanting said material or cast at a site of damaged tissue.

Claim 31. (New) A method for improving in vivo healing of damaged tissue, comprising introducing appropriate cells onto a cast, three-dimensional, porous gelatin structure as claimed in claim 19 and implanting said material or cast at a site of damaged tissue.

Claim 32. (New) A method for improving in vivo healing of damaged tissue, comprising implanting a porous gelatin material as claimed in claim 9 at a site of damaged tissue and allowing the individuals own cells to proliferate on said material or cast.

Claim 33. (New) A method for improving in vivo healing of damaged tissue, comprising implanting a porous gelatin material as claimed in claim 18 at a site of damaged tissue and allowing the individuals own cells to proliferate on said material or cast.

Claim 34. (New) A method for improving in vivo healing of damaged tissue, comprising implanting, or a cast, three-dimensional, porous gelatin structure as claimed in claim 10 at a site of damaged tissue and allowing the individuals own cells to proliferate on said material or cast.

Claim 35. (New) A method for improving in vivo healing of damaged tissue, comprising implanting a cast, three-dimensional, porous gelatin structure as claimed in claim 19 at a site of damaged tissue and allowing the individuals own cells to proliferate on said material or cast.